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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(S1) International Patent Classification 6 : C12N 5/02, A61K 31/20		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/32008 (43) International Publication Date: 4 September 1997 (04.09.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/13798		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 27 August 1996 (27.08.96)			
(30) Priority Data: 08/607,498 27 February 1996 (27.02.96) US			
(71) Applicant: WISCONSIN ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION [US/US]; P.O. Box 7365, Madison, WI 53707-7365 (US).			
(72) Inventors: COOK, Mark, E.; 15 Kewaunee Court, Madison, WI 53705 (US). PARIZA, Michael, W.; 7102 Valhalla Trail, Madison, WI 53719 (US). COOK, Ellen, B.; 15 Kewaunee Court, Madison, WI 53705 (US). STAHL, James, L.; 6648 Offshore Drive, Madison, WI 53705 (US). GRAZIANO, Frank, M.; 852 Tipperary Road, Oregon, WI 53575 (US).			
(74) Agent: KRYSHAK, Thad; Quarles & Brady, 411 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202-4497 (US).			
Published <i>With international search report.</i>			

(54) Title: CONJUGATED LINOLEIC ACIDS FOR ATTENUATING THE ALLERGIC RESPONSE

(57) Abstract

Methods of treating animals to prevent or treat the adverse effects of type I or IgE mediated hypersensitivity in the animal consist of administering to the animal a safe and effective amount of a conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) or a substance which is converted in the animal into CLA. Methods of increasing the white blood cell count in a mammal and preserving white blood cells with CLA also are disclosed.

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CONJUGATED LINOLEIC ACIDS FOR ATTENUATING THE ALLERGIC RESPONSE

Field of the Invention

The present application generally relates to methods of treating animals, including humans; and more particularly, to methods of treating animals to attenuate the allergic response in said animals. It is known that attenuating the allergic response in an animal can be beneficial in various conditions, such as asthma.

Background of the Invention

Allergy is a term commonly used to describe several forms of hypersensitivity. Hypersensitivity usually is classified into four types referred to by the Roman numerals I-IV. Types I to III hypersensitivities are mediated by antibodies and type IV is believed to be mediated by lymphocytes.

Asthma, hay fever, and eczema are considered to be of the type I form of hypersensitivity that is mediated by IgE antibodies and it is present in a significant percentage of humans. There is a general consensus that the mortality rates for asthma in much of the developed world have been increasing for the past 10-15 years. This increase has occurred despite an improved information base regarding diagnosis and management as well as the development of novel and more effective therapeutic modalities. Several explanations have been proposed for this increase, including a statistical artifact based on a change in the coding criteria for asthma from the International Classification of Diseases Version 8 to Version 9, worsened pollution, delays in seeking medical help, behavioral changes, deficits in asthma education of both patients and primary care providers, toxicity of beta agonists, and noncompliance with medications. It has been suggested that a change in our eating habits may contribute as well. The emphasis on reducing the intake of saturated fats and cholesterol has resulted in greater consumption of polyunsaturated fats and a

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consequent doubling of the percentage of the polyunsaturated linoleic acid in body fat. The only published results exploring the effects of dietary components on asthma show a positive effect of dietary fish oil on asthma and other 5 inflammatory diseases.

The IgE mediated hypersensitivity or type I hypersensitivity also is sometimes referred to as "immediate hypersensitivity" because its effects are recognizable within minutes on rechallenge with antigen. It is dependent upon 10 the binding of IgE antibodies to their receptors on mast cells and basophils. Cross-linking of the bound antibodies by antigen leads to the degranulation of the mast cells and basophils and to the synthesis of biologically active substances, which together with mediators, such as histamine, 15 released from granules can cause an injurious form of inflammatory response.

It is not known with certainty what activates the mast cells and basophils to degranulate and to release the mediators from the granules. However, the degranulation or 20 activation results in the release of prostaglandins and leukotrienes that are believed to be responsible for the clinical manifestations of the allergic reactions. Some of the mediators act upon other cells, such as eosinophils, neutrophils, monocytes, and lymphocytes to produce other 25 substances which attack or are toxic to tissue and can lead to further clinical manifestations. Whatever the mechanism, the net result of a type I hypersensitivity attack can be very serious and even can be death.

It obviously would be advantageous to have both methods 30 of attenuating the allergic response by preventing or inhibiting the adverse effects of type I hypersensitivity in an animal and methods for treating or alleviating such adverse effects.

Brief Summary of the Invention

35 It is one object of the present invention to disclose a method of preventing or inhibiting the adverse effects of type I or IgE mediated hypersensitivity in an animal.

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It also is an object of the present invention to disclose a method for treating or alleviating the adverse effects caused by a type I or IgE mediated hypersensitivity in animals, including humans.

5 It also is an object to disclose methods of preserving white blood cells using conjugated linoleic acids (CLA).

We have discovered that a method comprising the administration to an animal of safe and effective amounts of the conjugated linoleic acids 9,11-octadecadienoic acid and 10 10,12-octadecadienoic acid (CLA) or a substance that is converted in the animal to CLA can inhibit or prevent the adverse effects of type I or IgE mediated hypersensitivity in the animal.

15 We also have discovered that a method comprising the administration of CLA to an animal experiencing the adverse effects of type I or IgE mediated hypersensitivity can beneficially treat or alleviate those adverse effects.

Finally, we also have discovered a method of preserving white blood cells with CLA.

20 It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the aforementioned objects and other advantages may be achieved by the practice of the present invention.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a graph showing the antigen dose response 25 curves of CLA versus a control; and

Figure 2 is a graph showing Proctoglandin E2 release from guinea pig tracheae treated with CLA and controls.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

In the preferred method of the present invention for 30 inhibiting or preventing the adverse effects of a type I or IgE mediated hypersensitivity in an animal, a safe and effective amount of conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) or a substance that is converted to CLA in the animal is administered to the animal, including a human, to inhibit or 35 prevent the onset of those adverse effects.

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In the preferred method of the present invention for beneficially treating or alleviating the adverse effects of type I or IgE hypersensitivity in an animal, a safe and effective amount of a conjugated linoleic acid or a substance 5 that is converted to CLA in the animal is administered to an animal, including a human, which is experiencing such adverse effects.

The mechanism by which type I hypersensitivity causes its adverse effects in animals is not known. However, it is 10 possible that viral infections are causing the type I hypersensitivity or making animals susceptible to it and that the CLA is in some way interfering with the viral initiated response.

Since CLA is a natural food ingredient and it is relatively non-toxic, the amounts which can be administered in 15 the methods of the invention are not critical as long as they are enough to be effective. However, because of differences in size and susceptibility of animals, including humans, the amounts which are safe and effective can vary considerably.

20 In the preferred method for preserving white blood cells, a safe and effective amount of CLA is mixed with the white blood cells to be preserved. The amount of CLA employed will normally be about 0.1% to about 1% by weight of the white blood cells.

25 The term CLA as used herein includes the free conjugated linoleic acids such as 9,11-octadecadienoic acid and 10,12-octadecadienoic acid; the active isomers of CLA; non-toxic salts thereof; active esters and other active chemical derivatives thereof; and mixtures thereof.

30 The free conjugated linoleic acids (CLA) have been previously isolated from fried meats and described as anticarcinogen by Y. L. Ha, N. K. Grimm and M. W. Pariza, in *Carcinogenesis* Vol. 8, No. 12, pp. 1881-1887 (1987). Since then, they have been found in some processed cheese products 35 (Y.L. Ha, N. K. Grimm and M. W. Pariza, in *J. Agric. Food Chem.*, Vol. 37, No. 1, pp. 75-81 (1987)).

The free acid forms of the CLA may be prepared by isomerizing linoleic acid. The non-toxic salts of the free

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CLA acids may be made by reacting the free acids with a non-toxic base. Natural CLA may also be prepared from linoleic acid by the action of W^{12} -cis, W^{11} -transisomerase from a harmless microorganism such as the Rumen bacterium

5 Butyrivibrio fibrisolvens. Harmless microorganisms in the intestinal tracts of rats and other monogastric animals may also convert linoleic acid to CLA (S.F. Chin, W. Liu, K. Albright and M.W. Pariza, 1992, *FASEB J.* 6:Abstract #2665).

10 The CLA may also be prepared by use of the bacteria of which will synthesize CLA from linoleic acid. The resulting CLA is both stable and easily extracted from the fermentation broth.

15 Another convenient way of supplying CLA is by use of a milk naturally enriched with CLA. The milk can be prepared by adding a source of free linoleic acid and a harmless bacteria to milk and incubating the mixture for about 1 hour at 37°C or until the linoleic acid is converted into CLA.

20 The CLA obtained by the practice of the described methods of preparation contains one or more of the 9,11-octadecadienoic acids and/or 10,12-octadecadienoic acids and active isomers thereof. It may be free or bound chemically through ester linkages. The CLA is heat stable and can be used as is, or dried and powdered. The CLA is readily converted into a non-toxic salt, such as the sodium 25 or potassium salt, by reacting chemically equivalent amounts of the free acid with an alkali hydroxide at a pH of about 8 to 9.

25 Theoretically, 8 possible geometric isomers of 9,11- and 10,12-octadecadienoic acid (c9,c11; c9,t11; t9,c11; t9,t11; c10,c12; c10,t12; t10,c12 and t10,t12) would form from the isomerization of c9,c12-octadecadienoic acid. As a result of the isomerization, only four isomers (c9,c11; c9,t11; t10,c12; and c10,c12) would be expected. However, of the four isomers, c9,t11- and t10,c12- isomers are predominantly produced during the autoxidation or alkali-isomerization of c9,c12-linoleic acid due to the co-planar characteristics of 5 carbon atoms around a conjugated double-bond and spatial

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conflict of the resonance radical. The remaining two c,c-isomers are minor contributors.

The relatively higher distribution of the t,t-isomers of 9,11- or 10,12-octadecadienoic acid apparently results from 5 the further stabilization of c9,t11- or t10,c12-geometric isomers, which is thermodynamically preferred, during an extended processing time or long aging period. Additionally 10 the t,t-isomer of 9,11- or 10,12-octadecadienoic acid that was predominantly formed during the isomerization of linoleic acid geometrical isomers (t9,t12-, c9,t12- and t9,c12-octadecadienoic acid) may influence the final ratio of the isomers or the final CLA content in the samples.

Linoleic acid geometrical isomers also influence the distribution of minor contributors (c,c-isomers of 9,11- and 15 10,12-, t9,c11- and c11,t12-octadecadienoic acids). The 11,13-isomer might be produced as a minor product from c9,c12-octadecadienoic acid or from its isomeric forms during processing.

The methods of the present invention can take several 20 embodiments. In one embodiment, the CLA to be administered is simply added to the animal's or human's food. In another embodiment, the CLA can be administered to an animal in a pharmaceutical or veterinary dosage form containing a safe and effective dose of the CLA. In a third embodiment, the 25 animal can be fed a safe amount of a substance such as free linoleic acid which can be formed into CLA *in situ* in the animal or human.

The CLA and its non-toxic derivatives, such as the 30 non-toxic salts, in addition to being added to an animal's food or formed *in situ* can be administered in the form of pharmaceutical or veterinary compositions, such as tablets, capsules, solutions or emulsions to the animal or the humans. The exact amount to be administered, of course, depends upon 35 the form of CLA employed, the route of administration, and the nature of the animal's or human's condition. Generally, the amount employed of CLA and its non-toxic salts employed as a pharmaceutical will range from about one part per million (ppm) to about 10,000 ppm of CLA in the animal's or

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human's diet. However, the upper limit of the amount to be employed is not critical because CLA is relatively non-toxic and it is a normal constituent of the human diet (including human breast milk). The amounts to be added to a 5 conventional animal feed or human's food as an additive can range from .01% to 2.0% or more by weight of the animal's or human's food.

The preferred pharmaceutical and veterinary compositions of CLA contain the non-toxic sodium or potassium salt of CLA in combination with a pharmaceutical diluent. When the 10 compositions are solutions or suspensions intended for external or oral administration, the diluent will be one or more liquid diluents. When the product is a tablet or capsule, a conventional diluent can be employed. When the 15 compositions are solutions or suspensions intended for parenteral administration the preferred diluent will be Sterile Water for Injection U.S.P.

The following examples further illustrate the practice of the present invention.

20

Example 1

It is recognized that the guinea pig is a useful model in the pre-clinical evaluation of substances for use in the treatment of asthma (M. G. Compos and M. K. Church, *Clinical and Experimental Allergy*, 1992, Volume 22, pages 665-666). 25 Therefore, a guinea pig model was used to measure the effect of dietary CLA (conjugated linoleic acid) on the allergic response.

Guinea pigs were fed 0.25% CLA or control diets for two weeks, then immunized with ovalbumin on weeks two and three 30 for hyperimmunization. The guinea pigs were euthanized, and tracheae were collected and used in a superfusion model system to determine if feeding CLA had any effect on allergen-induced tracheal contraction. (The superfusion model system consists of connecting the excised tissue to a 35 polygraph and measuring contraction by the offset of the polygraph.) It was observed that tracheae from guinea pigs fed CLA were more stable in the superfusion system than

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tracheae of control-fed guinea pigs (that is, needing fewer corrections to return the tissue to baseline tension during equilibration). When allergen was infused over the guinea pig tracheae, after one hour of equilibration, less tracheal contraction was observed in the tissue of the CLA-fed animals. The reduced tracheal contraction corresponded to an increased Prostaglandin E₂ release as measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. These results are shown on Figures 1 and 2. Histamine release was not affected by diet.

10

Example 2

It was observed in animals fed CLA that their White Blood Cell (WBC) counts were increased to $3.5 \times 10^6/\text{ml} \pm .6$ as compared to control animals which had WBC counts of $2.4 \times 10^6/\text{ml} \pm .3$ (mean +/- SEM). Thus, feeding CLA can be used as 15 a method to increase WBC counts in mammals.

20

Example 3

CLA (1% by weight) is added to isolated human white blood cells which are maintained at 39°C. It is found that the viability of the white blood cells which normally lasts for about 12 hours is prolonged for up to longer than 24 hours by the addition of the CLA. This extension of the useful life of white blood cells helps prevent their waste.

25

It will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that a number of modifications or changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Therefore, the invention is only to be limited by the claims.

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We claim:

1. A method of preventing or treating the adverse effects of type I or IgE mediated hypersensitivity in an animal, said method comprising administering orally or parenterally to said animal a safe amount of a member selected from the group consisting of a conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) and a substance which is converted in the animal to CLA, said amount being effective to prevent or treat said adverse effects.
2. The method of claim 1 in which at least some of the adverse effects are characteristic of asthma.
3. A method of alleviating the adverse effects of type I or IgE mediated hypersensitivity in an animal, said method comprising administering orally or parenterally to said animal a safe amount of a member selected from the group consisting of a conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) and a substance which is converted in the animal to CLA, said amount being effective to prevent or alleviate said adverse effects of said hypersensitivity.
4. The method of Claim 2 in which at least some of the adverse effects are characteristic of asthma.
5. A method of preserving white blood cells which comprises adding to said white blood cells an amount of CLA which is about 0.1% to about 1% by weight.
6. A method of increasing the white blood cell counts in a mammal comprises administering to said mammal a safe amount of CLA which is effective to increase the white blood cell count in said mammal.

FIGURE 1 ANTIGEN CHALLENGE OF GUINEA PIG TRACHEAE: CONTRACTION

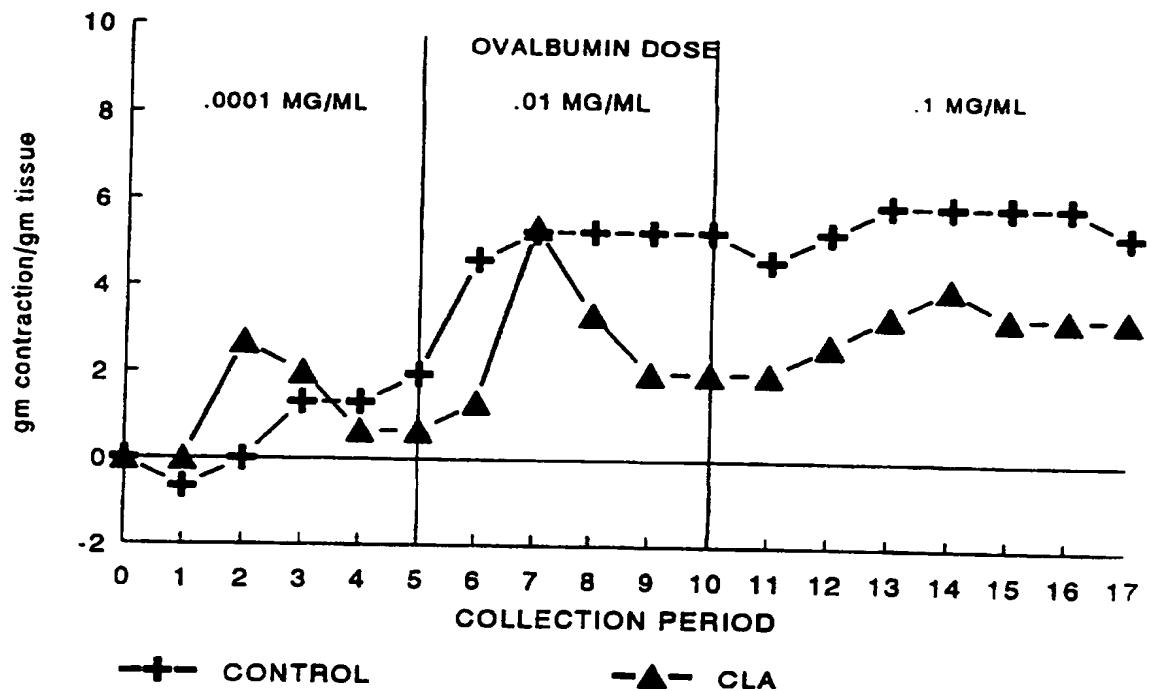
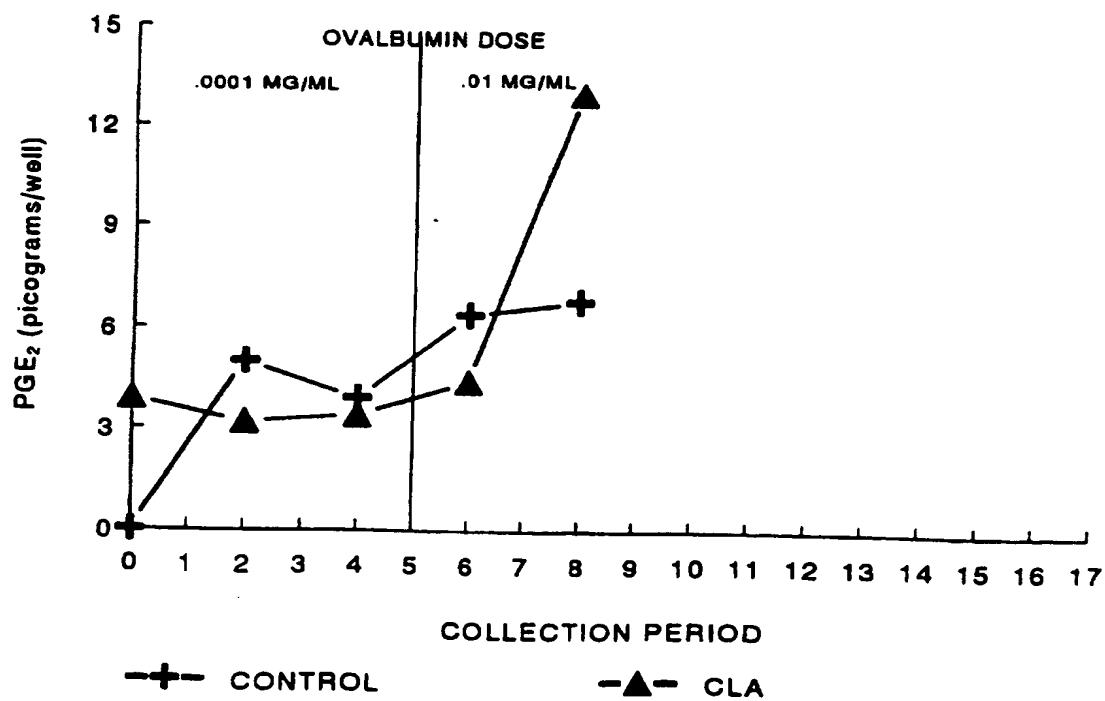


FIGURE 2 ANTIGEN CHALLENGE OF GUINEA PIG TRACHEAE: PGE₂ RELEASE



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l. Application No
PCT/US 96/13798

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 C12N/02 A61K31/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 C12N A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 012, no. 070 (C-479), 4 March 1988 & JP 62 209023 A (SUNSTAR INC), 14 September 1987, see abstract * * *	1,3
Y	--- EP 0 579 901 A (WISCONSIN ALUMNI RES FOUND) 26 January 1994 * see page 1, lines 24 - 36, page 3, lines 52-55, claims 5, 11,14 * --- -/-	1-4
Y	---	1-4

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 February 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

11.03.97

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentzaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+ 31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax. (+ 31-70) 340-3016

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In Application No
PCT/US 96/13798

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	J. NUTRITION, vol. 124, no. 9, September 1994, pages 1566-1573, XP000607714 WATANABE ET AL.: "A high alpha-linolenate diet suppresses antigen-induced immunoglobulin E response and anaphylactic shock in mice" * see abstract; Tables 1,3; and discussion * ---	1-4,6
A	EUR. RESPIR. J., vol. 2, 1989, pages 950-954, XP000607499 CHILVERS ET AL.: "Absence of circulating products of oxygen derived free radicals in acute severe asthma" * see abstract. Fig. 3 * ---	1-4,6
A	ARERUGI, vol. 43, no. 1, 1994, pages 37-43, XP000607715 SAKAI ET AL.: "Fatty acid compositions of plasma lipids in atopic dermatitis/asthma patients" * see abstract, Fig. 1, discussion *	1-4,6
X	EP 0 060 565 A (MAX PLANCK GESELLSCHAFT) 22 September 1982 * see in particular claims 1,9; page 5 line 5 - page 8 line 35 * ---	5
A	WO 90 09110 A (WISCONSIN ALUMNI RES FOUND) 23 August 1990 * see claims 9-10; page 4 lines 8-31 * -----	5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 96/ 13798

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

- 1) Claims 1-4,6: Methods of treatment involving immunomodulatory actions of CLA
- 2) Claim 5: Method of preserving white blood cells with CLA

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int'l. Search Application No

PCT/US 96/13798

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A-0579901	26-01-94	US-A- 5430066 DE-D- 69301693 DE-T- 69301693 US-A- 5428072 US-A- 5504114 US-A- 5554646	04-07-95 11-04-96 25-07-96 27-06-95 02-04-96 10-09-96
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